



Minehead and West Somerset Golf Club Newsletter

Newsletter 59 for August 2019



**Glenn Ross,
Club Captain**

It has been another sad month for the club losing Past Captain Martin Gilbertson so suddenly. He was a great character and will be sadly missed around the club.

Every time I hit a long-range putt from off the green I will remember him!

In happier news, congratulations to immediate past Captain Doug Hayhoe for organising a successful Arnold Palmer Charity Day raising some valuable funds for local charities. Thank you to all the local businesses, members and guests who supported the event.



Winners of the Arnold Palmer Charity Shield – Roger Green and Andy Giles



Winners of the Ladies Rose Bowl – Deano Carlin and Paula Parkin

Next month sees the excitement of the MET shield and the Club's Pro-Am event. Thanks to John and Jordan for their efforts in making the Pro-Am a success. This month will also see Ian Donnelly our incoming Club Manager start at the club. I wish him every success and trust you as

members will give him a warm Minehead & West Somerset Golf Club welcome.

One final point, a member recently sent me an image of a couple of unraked (or very poorly raked) bunkers from a recent round. I would be grateful if we could all make the effort to smooth every bunker you play out of and in addition if you see one that was poorly raked, missed, or has animal prints in it, take a moment to smooth it for your fellow golfers. I'm sure it will be appreciated by all that enjoy our course.

Enjoy your golf.



**Neil Powles
Seniors' Captain**

Another busy month for the section, three matches played with mixed fortunes. First up

a visit to Tiverton where the course was in very good condition; just ask Bic's who set a new course record there the weekend before, well done John .

Unfortunately we could not match his feat coming away with a 5-1 loss; Captain for the day Richard Austwick – what a welcome to being "head pancho". Serious mate you did a grand job very much appreciated. Our only win coming from the last pair in of Tim Tennant & Alan Jones. Next we hosted Ilfracombe and revenge was sweet after going there earlier in the year and losing by coming back and recording a fine 4-2 victory. Wins coming from pairings of David Ball/Nigel Trevelyan, Andy Dahl/Tim Tennant, Sandy Lyons/David Lake & Tim Evans/Edward Frewin. Our final match of the month saw us entertain Taunton & Pickeridge, although losing 2-4 a moral victory was felt on playing golfers who played to their rightful handicaps. A win from Andy Dahl/Nigel Trevelyan and halves from Malcolm Bruce/Neil Powles & Graham Stone/Alan Jones.

On the internal front at Minehead the month started off with a New Century Greensomes winning with a canter Dave Oatridge/Neville Parsons coming in with 62.6 followed by



Richard Austwick/David Lake on 65.8. The Senior Texas Scramble with a healthy entry of 22 triples resulted in Dave Oatridge/Roger Green/Phil Watts winning with a score of 58.8, second came the team of Peter Taylor/B. Anderson/J. Vickerstaff on 60.6.

The Senior Team Bogey saw Mark Ruttley/Graham Stone/Nigel Trevelyan total plus 6, well ahead of second place on plus 3 from Dermot Hurley/David Ball/David Lake. The Senior Pairs Aggregate was a tight affair coming in with score of 69 were Martin Edkins and Edward Frewin from Malcolm Tate/Andy Dahl & Graham Troman/Peter Coombes on 68 each. The Monthly Stableford off the White Tees saw Dave Oatridge return with 37 closely followed by a clutch of players on 36/35. Our Monthly Senior Bowmaker winners came from the triples of Ray Holland/Peter Heddercott/Andy Dahl with 93, again closely followed by a number of teams. Our final competition of the month 3 clubs and a putter saw senior stalwart Dermot Hurley win on countback from Phil Watts both carding 38 from Peter Taylor on 37.

September will be as busy as ever with a home game against near neighbours Enmore and away trips to Weston – Super – Mare/Saunton, plus Captains Day at Minehead to give all senior section members to enjoy the golf, food and prizes on offer along with the normal competitions. It is pleasing to report our numbers have near doubled to 58 over the last 18 months.

As always our sincere thanks to Robert and his team for providing us with a cracking golf course and our bar & catering staff who continue to go from strength to strength and to Phil & Faye who are always there to help and support us.



Denis Compton Course Manager

From our head greenkeeper,
Robert Barrett

- Greens species composition continues to improve with fescue populations noticeably increasing on the wetter greens as well as the best soil conditions.
- Tees through 2019 have held grass cover reasonably well. The main reason for this is rainfall, as we play year-round on most of our tees. Plant recovery is limited to the spring, summer, and autumn playing seasons and, as we saw in the 2018 record drought, very little recovery time was available. Continued play through winter left our tees in poor condition so the rain was very welcome.
- Approaches/surrounds are playing quite well, giving all players the chance to play the chip and run shot or, indeed, putt, which is the requirement of links golf. The other important reason for good quality approaches is to allow all golfers to land the ball short of the green and run the ball in without seeing poor bounces affecting the outcome of their shots. Firm links conditions dictate the need for landing the ball short, perhaps downwind, or hitting from a long distance. Some surround fringe enlargement is planned to enhance the look and the way the links plays.
- Fairways are presenting and recovering well. However, bad lies can still be found, as always, on our poorest fairways. Overseeding and scarifying in the spring has helped the fairways. Rainfall is penetrating the surface instead of running to the low spots. Going forward, it is hopeful that resources will be found to continue this work with addition of wetting agent/light fertilizing application in late autumns and springs. Topdressing with blown sand and composted waste mix will also be very beneficial.
- Semi Rough has been maintained all year with speed of play in mind. As the summer progresses, less growth is allowing us to extend time between mowing and indeed leaving some areas to seed, enhancing the definition of the



course. Holes 2, 3, and 15 for shorter-hitting players are very difficult from the tee. The 2nd fairway is being mown nearer to the tee with slight narrowing left and right, increasing semi rough area. The 3rd and 15th are under discussion of how to bring back fairway areas nearer the tee. In the case of the 3rd, bank levelling and the 15th bunker first on left from 16th tee/bank removal.

- Natural Roughs are looking untidy with the Ragwort, not yet being pulled or cut. Skylark nesting season is coming to an end and, where necessary, we intend to mow some unsightly areas in the coming weeks. Special thanks should be made to Mark Ogden, as he has removed nearly all of the unsightly doc plants along the coastline and in the middle of the course.

- Mark Rutley and Mike Nichols continue to volunteer their time which is greatly appreciated.

- Rabbit control quietly continues with Adam Hewitt regularly shooting not just on the course, but on the adjacent farmland of which he has a concession. In November he has been asked to help control rabbit numbers at Dunster Beach Chalets. The reduction of rabbit numbers over recent years has seen huge improvements in course presentation and golfers' enjoyment. Holes and scrapes on 1, 2, 3, 14, 16, 17, 18 are very few and far between. Golf balls that were regularly lost in those rabbit holes would slow down play and frustrate players. This is no longer the case. In 2007 and 2008, the fence along the 16th, 17th, and 18th coastline was installed, which greatly helped the reduction of numbers. This fence is now in poor condition and needs replacing. The fence on the 9th and 10th was installed in 2017 with further addition planned along the first part of the 11th. We are seeing decreasing activity at the far end of the golf course. The intention is to achieve similar results to that of the clubhouse end.



Dorrien Bickerstaff
Bar & Catering

Thank you to Paul Davies who stepped forward at the AGM

to take over this role. As promised I will be assisting him until he gets his feet under the table.

Can I encourage all members to support the Murder Mystery Night, the Reading of the Will, on Friday 20th September, from 6:15. It promises to be a very entertaining evening with an excellent menu on offer and there are still a few spots left. Don't leave it too late to book.



Ian Gover
Handicap & Competitions

With the television companies now playing their Autumn programmes and trying to entice us with series based around baking and dancing it is time for us to review our game during the last season especially considering the 'new' rules.

Do you still remember to drop the ball from knee height, do you leave the flag in when you putt and do you fix spike marks? Are these things now fixed into your play or are you still confused as to what you should do?

I do not think that these changes are the most important thing. The best changes are in your play. Over the last year I have tried to teach myself a new shot which has been quite successful. A new driver has helped but now my second shots have become more of an issue. Unfortunately, I am still roughly the same place where I started as far as my handicap is concerned.

Last month's question was about the relief that should be allowed if you find your ball on the green, but your natural stance is in a sprinkler head. The answer is that it is a free drop.

During the final of the St Audries Foursomes a player put his ball into the reeds down the 7th. The ball was found, and the team tried to play where it lay but he just buried it further into the reeds. They now choose to take a penalty drop. Where should they take the drop from – the point of entry from the first shot into the red area, lateral relief or back where they took the original shot?

